

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested. Claims 1-26 are pending in the application.

By the present amendment, the specification, drawings, and claims have been amended by adopting the Examiner's suggestions to overcome the objections set forth in the Office Action. Regarding the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, the claims have been amended by adopting the Examiner's suggestions, with the following exceptions:

Claims 7 and 22 both read on the embodiment of Fig. 10, so the rejections of these claims is improper and should be withdrawn.

In claim 20, antecedent basis for "the vehicle" in line 5 is found at line 3.

By the present amendment, the specification has been amended to perfect a claim of domestic priority from co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/301,966, filed November 22, 2002. Therefore, Bakhsh et al. (US 2004/0100074) is not prior art against the present application.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the first chamber when inflated is positioned against a surface of the instrument panel presented generally toward the vehicle occupant. In Kithill (US 5,602,734), this is not the case. Kithill teaches a tether 76 that restricts deployment of the air bag 20 so as to form a notch 72, the purpose of which is to reduce the risk of injury to an infant in a rear-facing car

seat. Kithill thus purposefully and intentionally restricts inflation of the air bag which, as clearly shown in the figures of Kithill, prevents the air bag from inflating to a position against the surface of the instrument panel facing the occupant.

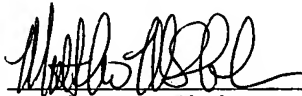
Based on the above, Applicants respectfully submit that Kithill does not teach or suggest all of the features recited in claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 should be allowed. Claims 2-10 depend from claim 1 and should be allowed as depending from an allowable claim.

Regarding claims 11 and 26, none of the prior art cited in the Office Action teach or suggest protection devices with the recited construction that, when inflated in a vehicle, provide an inflated protection wall extending from adjacent a roof of the vehicle down to adjacent an instrument panel of the vehicle. Accordingly, claims 11 and 26 should be allowed. Claims 12-25 depend from claim 11 and should be allowed as depending from an allowable claim.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the above identified application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Please amend the drawings as shown in the replacement sheets that accompany this amendment. The drawing figures shown in the replacement sheets replace all prior versions of the drawing figures in the application. A complete set of drawing figures, including the replacement sheets, is submitted herewith.

In amending the drawing figures, all of the corrections suggested in the Official Action of May 9, 2005 were implemented with one exception. In Fig. 7D, the upper occurrence of "180" has been replaced with "80" to correctly identify the first sheet, as shown in Figs. 7A-7C and 7E. No new matter is presented.